

WEST VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR NEAR END

Charleston, W. Va., April 22.—West Virginia's civil war seemed to be near an end today.

The bituminous coal miners' convention was called to order early. Gov. Henry D. Hatfield was ready to present his peace proposals to the convention.

The civil war has been going on now for over twelve months. It began, like the great industrial strike now going on in Belgium over a matter of principle.

The coal miners were denied the right to organize by the owners; they were forced to live in company-owned and company-built shacks, for which they were charged an exorbitant rental.

And when the men went on strike to emphasize their demands, the owners called in the militia to shoot them down like dogs.

Three times the militia were called in, and the lives of 100 men paid toll.

The district under martial law is twenty miles square. All but one acre of it is owned by the mine owners.

On the corner of that one acre stands a Catholic church, and the balance of the plot is owned by an old Irish woman.

The old Irish woman turned her property over the striking miners. There they have lived in tents pitched so close together that the sanitary conditions have been unspeakable since the war began.

But that Irish acre was the only ground in the district from which the mine owners could not order the miners away and have them shot down if they did not move away.

Before the strike began the miners were forced to buy their tools, their food, their clothing, their furniture, their tobacco and everything from company stores.

The women never handled money. The company gave them coupon

books, and then company storekeepers encouraged them to buy more than their books called for. Thus the miners always were kept in debt.

The company shacks in which the miners were forced to live were two-room, clap-board, foundationless huts, which cost less than \$150 to build, and for which the company charged in rental every year \$96.

The men now demand the right to organize, better schools for their children, better homes for themselves, proper sanitation, more reasonable company stores, and the right to purchase elsewhere than in company stores if they please.

If the men do not accept Gov. Hatfield's peace proposals an extra session of the legislature will be called and another effort made to end the civil war that has been disgracing the entire country.

WHITE SLAVER GETS HEAVY SENTENCE FROM HOPKINS

Through the efforts of Detective Sergeant Bowler, Paul Bennett will spend one year in the Bridewell, and held the finances of the city to the extent of \$300.

Some months ago, Marie Bartelle, 17 years old, came to Chicago from Manchester, Mich., where she had a telephone operator. She met Bennett, who lived at 1244 Washington boulevard.

Bennett made love to the girl, and under promise of marriage betrayed. Then, when she was ruined, he forced her to go on the streets, and made her turn over the money she earned to him.

Bowler brought Bennett before Municipal Judge Hopkins, who handed out the \$300 fine and one year sentence.

WEATHER FORECAST

Mostly cloudy, with showers to-night or Wednesday for Chicago and vicinity; warmer tonight; southwest winds.